

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

August was once again the month for the San Diego ComicCon. I must say it was really nice to see many of the Renegade Artists there, including Max and Terry on **Ms. Tree**, Larry and Michael on **Suburban Nightmares** and Arn Saba on **Neil the Horse**. Even our printers, Preney Print and Litho, had sent someone up and Kim got a chance to see just how much Comics has grown and changed in the last few years.

There was plenty of excitement at the booth with the unveiling of the two new issues of **Neil the Horse**, with our first two issues of the new Cherkas and Hancock series, **Suburban Nightmares**. and so sales were brisk during the convention. Unfortunately, we did not have **Renegade Romance** or **Tripto the Acid Dog** (with Bill Mumy, Steve Leialoha and Miguel Ferrer) ready in time for the convention, much to the disappointment of both fans and the creators.

However, there was plenty of excitement at the dance that night, when **Seduction of the Innocent** (Max Collins, Bill Mumy, Steve Leialoha and Miguel Ferrer) played to a very packed house. A good time was certainly guaranteed for all, and I sure hope they come back to play for us next year. I even got a chance to get up and boogie for a song with them!

As you may have noticed, we have had some personnel changes here, with Peter taking a bit more time to work at his other job (in advertising) and so we have asked Nora to come on with us to handle the mail orders and subscriptions as Peter does his work freelance now. Jennifer will be working more closely with me the next few months, so that I can take the time to make some changes in format etc, at Renegade. More on that in a month or two.

That's about it for now. I just wanted to say hi to everyone who came by the booth. See you in a month or two!

The logo for MS. TREE features the word "TREE" in large, bold, outlined letters. To the left of the "T", there is a stylized illustration of a tree trunk and branches.

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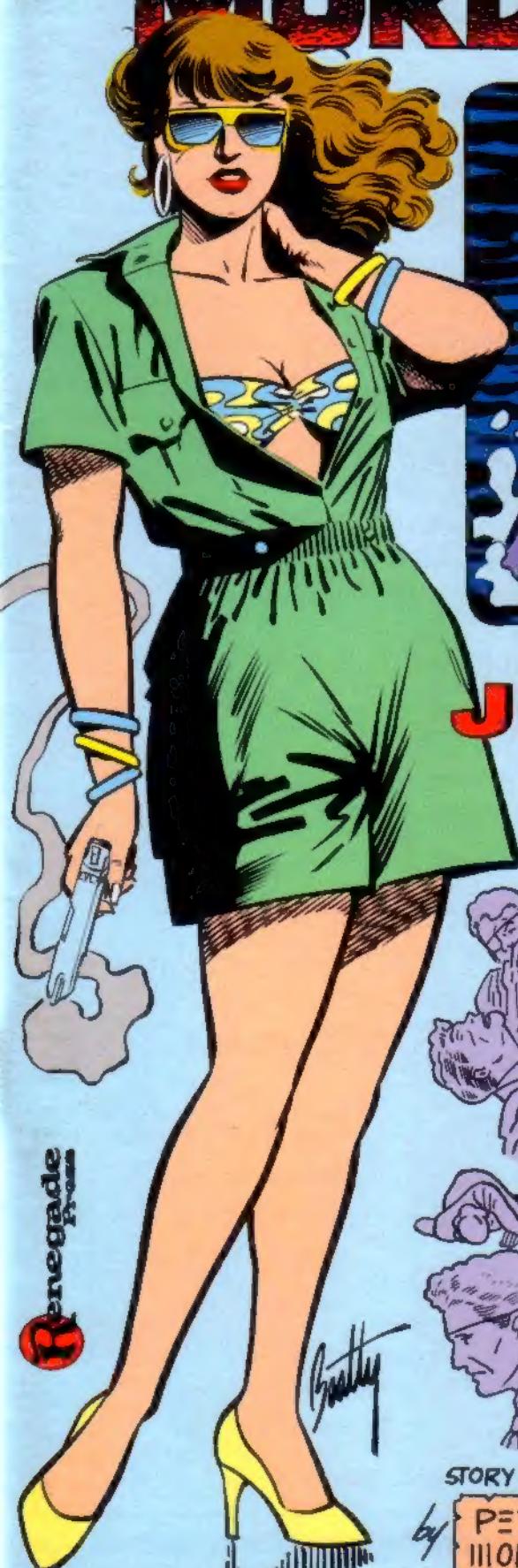
MAX COLLINS and
TERRY BEATTY'S

m.T.R.E.F.

"MURDER CRUISE"

47
AUG

200
IN U.S.
275
CANADA



JOHNNY DYNAMITE

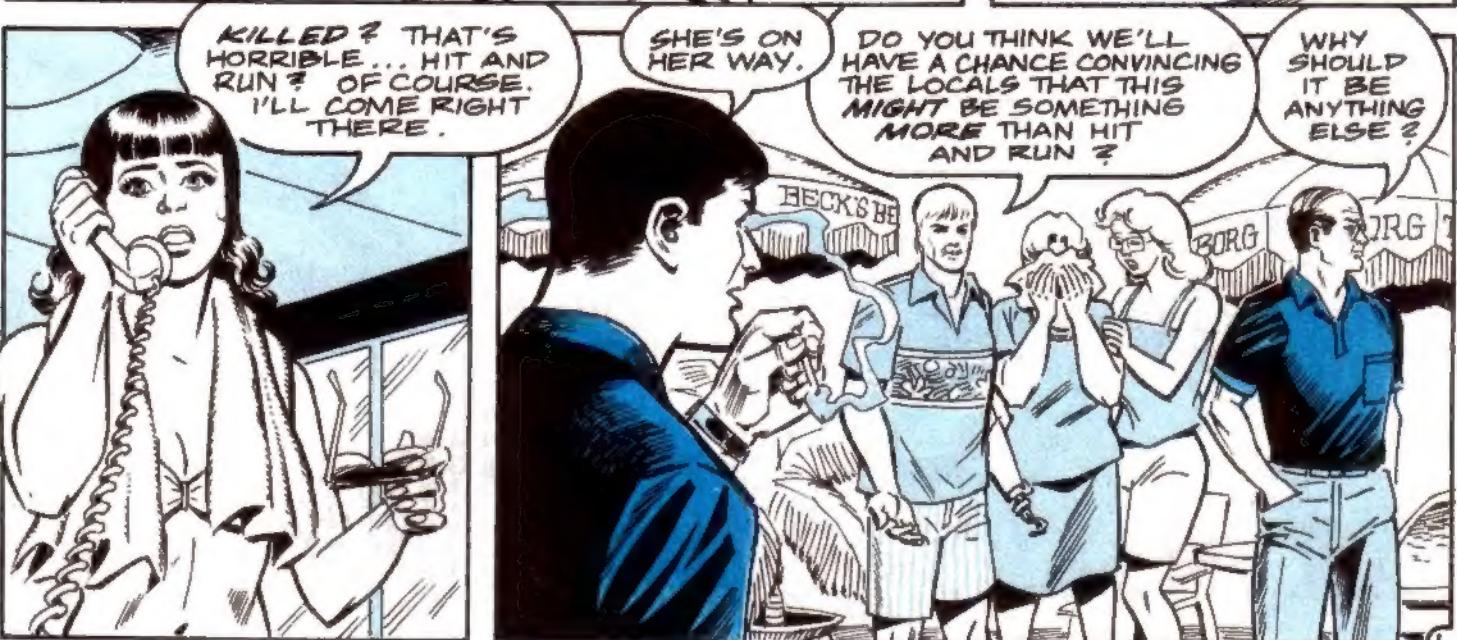
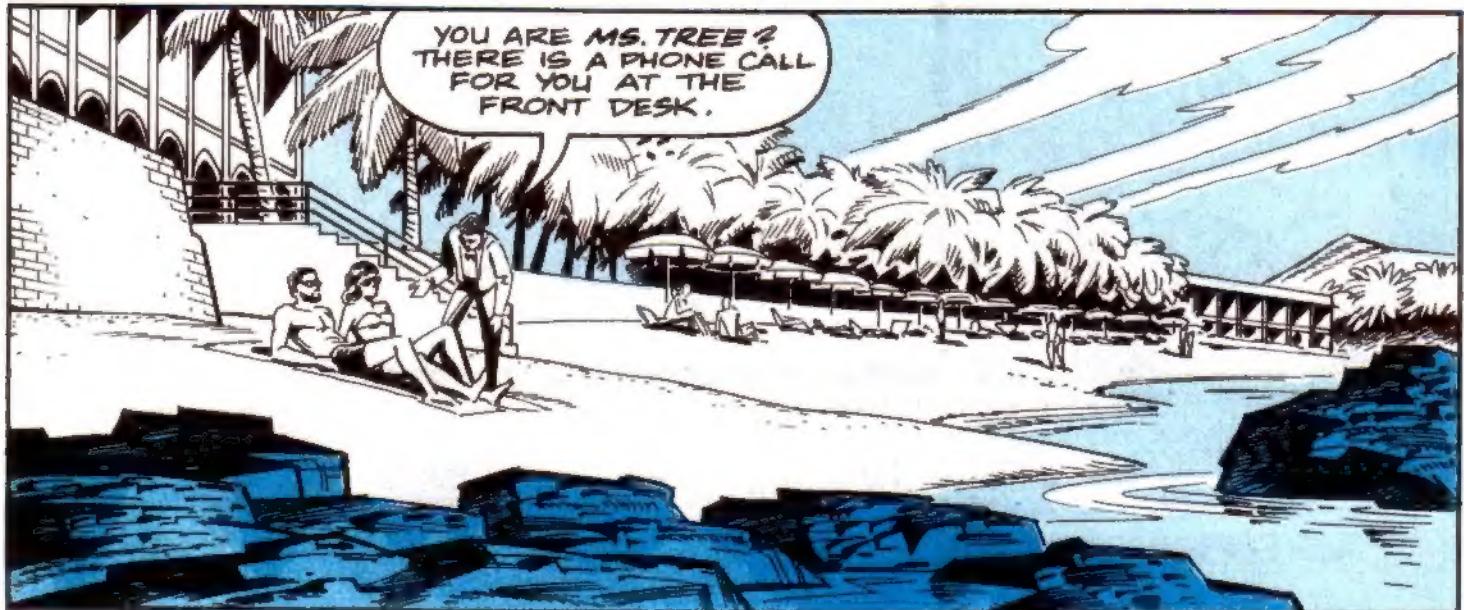


Renegade
Beatty
by
STORY AND ART
PETE MIRISI

"MURDER CRUISE"

A MIST-TREE TALE

BY MAX COLLINS, TERRY BEATTY AND GARY KATO

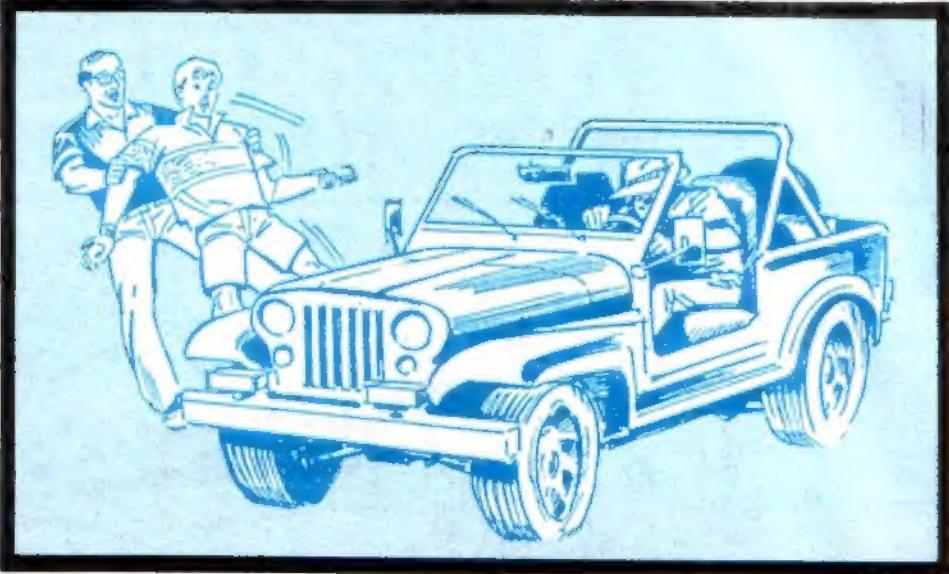


MY NAME IS ROGER FREEMONT.
IF IT MATTERS.

WELL, WE COULD'VE BEEN
THE TARGET... ANY AND ALL
OF US ASSOCIATED WITH
TREE, INC. MIST WAS
WALKING JUST BEHIND
MISS MORRISON WHEN SHE
GOT HIT...



"AND MOMENTS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT," DAN
CONTINUED, "THAT SAME JEEP NEARLY STRUCK US -"
"YOU HAVE A POINT," I SAID.



"DO YOU THINK THE MUERTAS
HAVE SENT A HIT MAN
ALONG ON THE CRUISE
WITH US?" DAN ASKED.

"WITH THE GAMBLING AND
SUCH IN THESE ISLANDS
— AND THE DRUG TRADE,"
I SAID, "YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE TO TURN OVER TOO
MANY ROCKS BEFORE
YOU FOUND A MUERTA TIE."



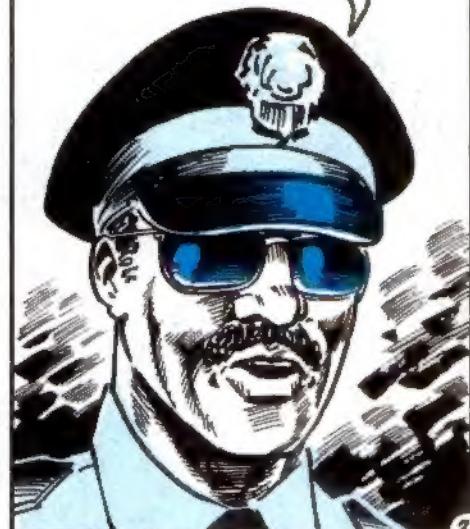
MS. TREE AGREED WITH THE GREEN/FREEMONT
ASSESSMENT OF THE "ACCIDENT."

IF THERE'S ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS,
OFFICER, YOU SHOULD LOOK AT
THIS HARD... I HAVE ENEMIES
ALL OVER THE WORLD...



WE'VE HEARD
OF YOU IN THE
ISLANDS,
MS. TREE.

WE'VE FOUND THE
DEATH VEHICLE,
ABANDONED ON THE
MAIN ROAD... WOULD
YOU CARE TO HAVE
A LOOK?



NONE OF US HAD GOTTEN A GOOD LOOK AT THE DRIVER - ALL WE SAW WAS A DARK-SKINNED FELLOW IN A KHAKI OUTFIT AND HAT AND SUNGLASSES... APPAREL THAT SPOKE DISGUISE IN A CLIME LIKE THIS...

THIS VEHICLE WAS REPORTED STOLEN THIS MORNING. A LOCAL BUSINESSMAN OF GOOD STANDING.



SEAT IS WET.
MIST... WHAT
DO YOU MAKE
OF THAT?

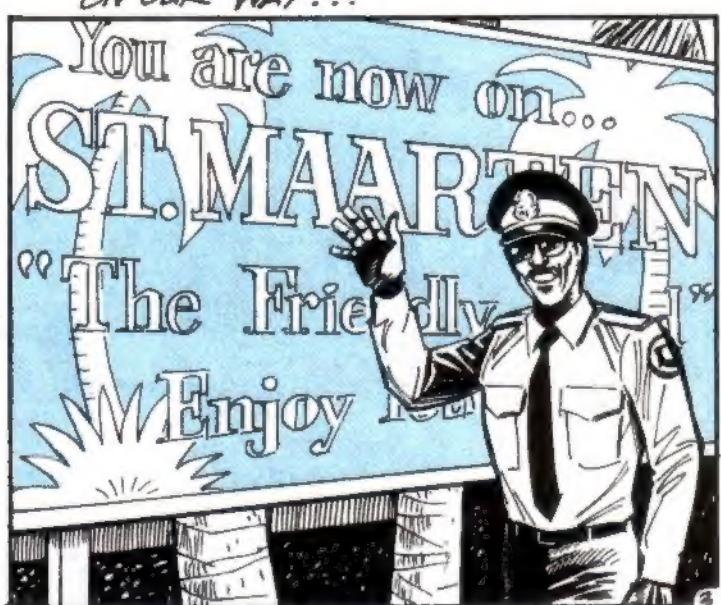
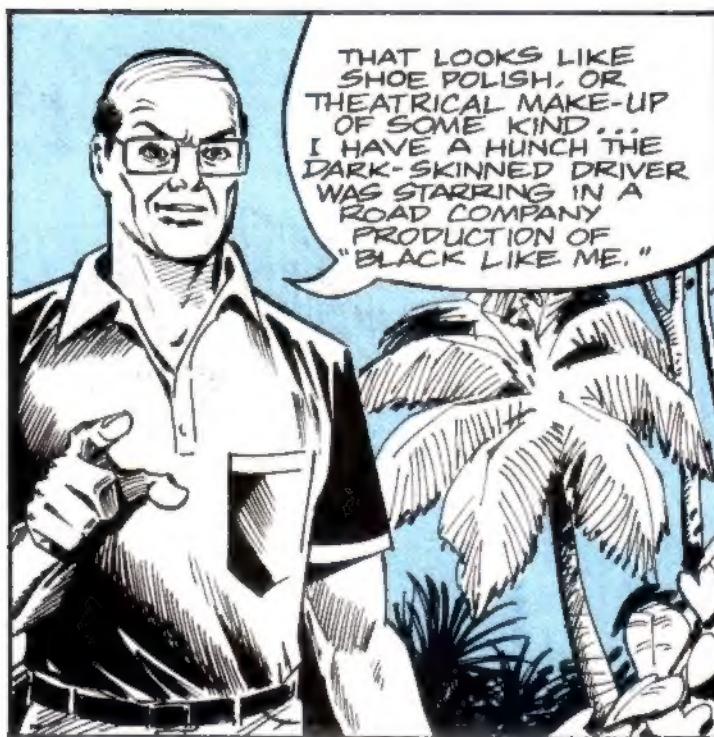


WE CALL THAT "WATER"
IN THE DETECTIVE
BUSINESS... WHAT
ABOUT THOSE SMUDGES
ON THE SEAT?



THAT LOOKS LIKE
SHOE POLISH, OR
THEATRICAL MAKE-UP
OF SOME KIND...
I HAVE A HUNCH THE
DARK-SKINNED DRIVER
WAS STARING IN A
ROAD COMPANY
PRODUCTION OF
"BLACK LIKE ME."

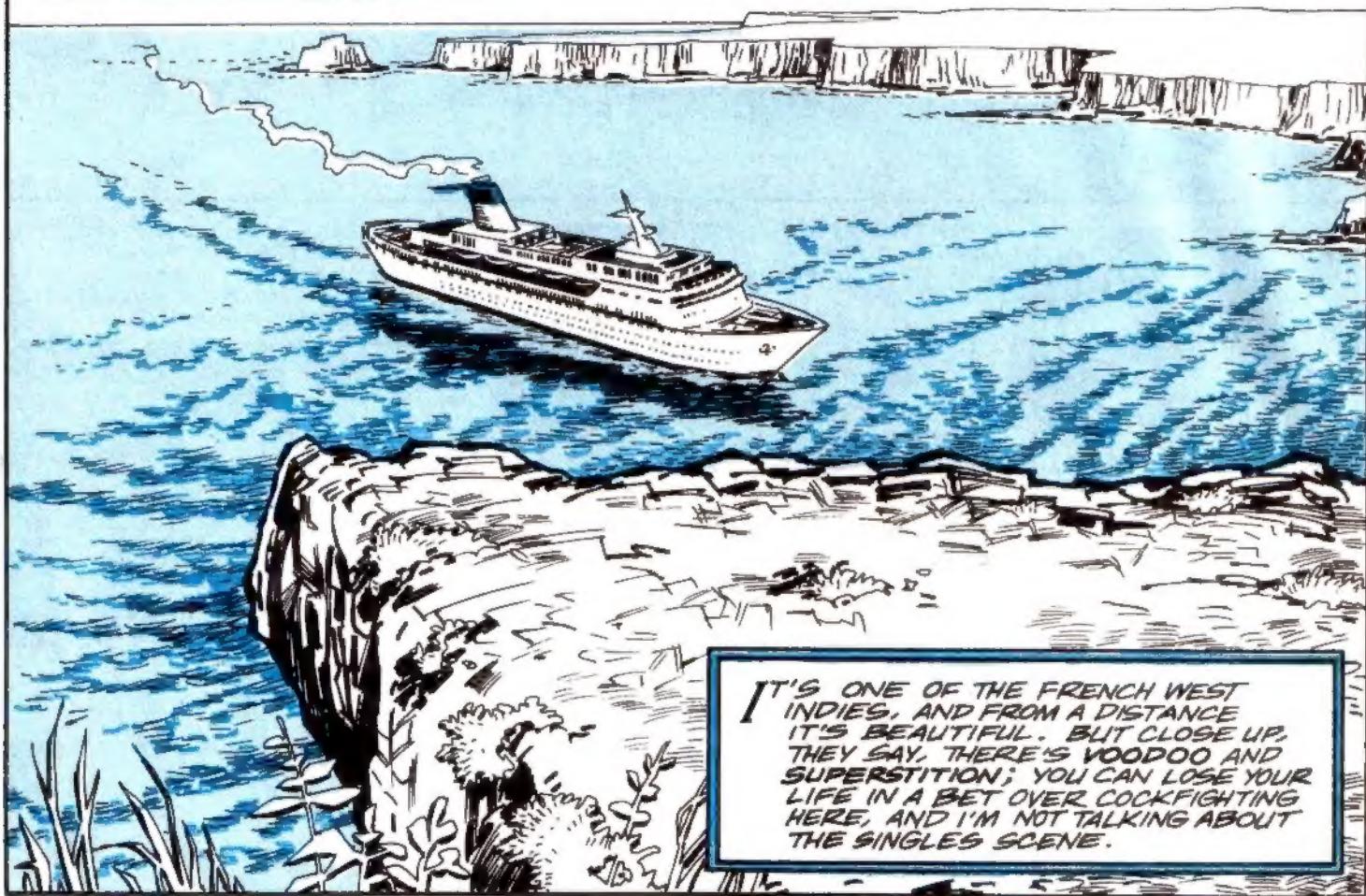
OFFICER MULLET OF THE PHILIPSBURG
POLICE WAS VERY ATTENTIVE TO ALL
OF OUR THEORIES AND THOUGHTS...
AND THEN CHEERFULLY SENT US
ON OUR WAY...



Day Four: PHOTO FINISH

TUESDAY,
GUADELOUPE.

FROM THE AIR, OR ON
A MAP, GUADELOUPE
RESEMBLES A
BUTTERFLY.



I T'S ONE OF THE FRENCH WEST INDIES, AND FROM A DISTANCE IT'S BEAUTIFUL. BUT CLOSE UP, THEY SAY, THERE'S VOODOO AND SUPERSTITION; YOU CAN LOSE YOUR LIFE IN A BET OVER COCKFIGHTING HERE, AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SINGLES SCENE.

THE SHOPPING, IN POINTE-A-PITRE, GUADELOUPE'S COMMERCIAL CENTER, RUNS TO DUTY-FREE PERFUME, WINES AND LIQUEURS; I SMELLED FINE ALREADY, SO I STOCKED UP ON THE LATTER TWO.

POINTE-A-PITRE IS VERY FRENCH, BUT IT'S ALSO VERY RUN-DOWN, LIKE A FILTHY PARIS OR A SEEDIER NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER. I HEADED BACK TO THE SHIP WITH MY SUPPLIES.



NOT EVEN LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE, A.K.A. EFFIE, HAD GONE SIGHTSEEING TODAY. THE DEATH OF MISS MORRISON — CURRENTLY RESIDING IN A COLD LOCKER IN THE SHIP MORGUE — HAD KNOCKED THE CHEER OUT OF OUR CHEERY LITTLE CROWD, WHO WERE HOLED UP IN THE CASINO (WHICH WAS A LOUNGE ONLY, TILL AFTER TEN AT NIGHT).

IS THIS DISCUSSION GROUP CLOSED, OR CAN ANY DAMN FOOL JOIN ?

HAVE A SEAT, ROGER.

WE'RE JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY MISS MORRISON MIGHT HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR NEGATIVE ATTENTION...

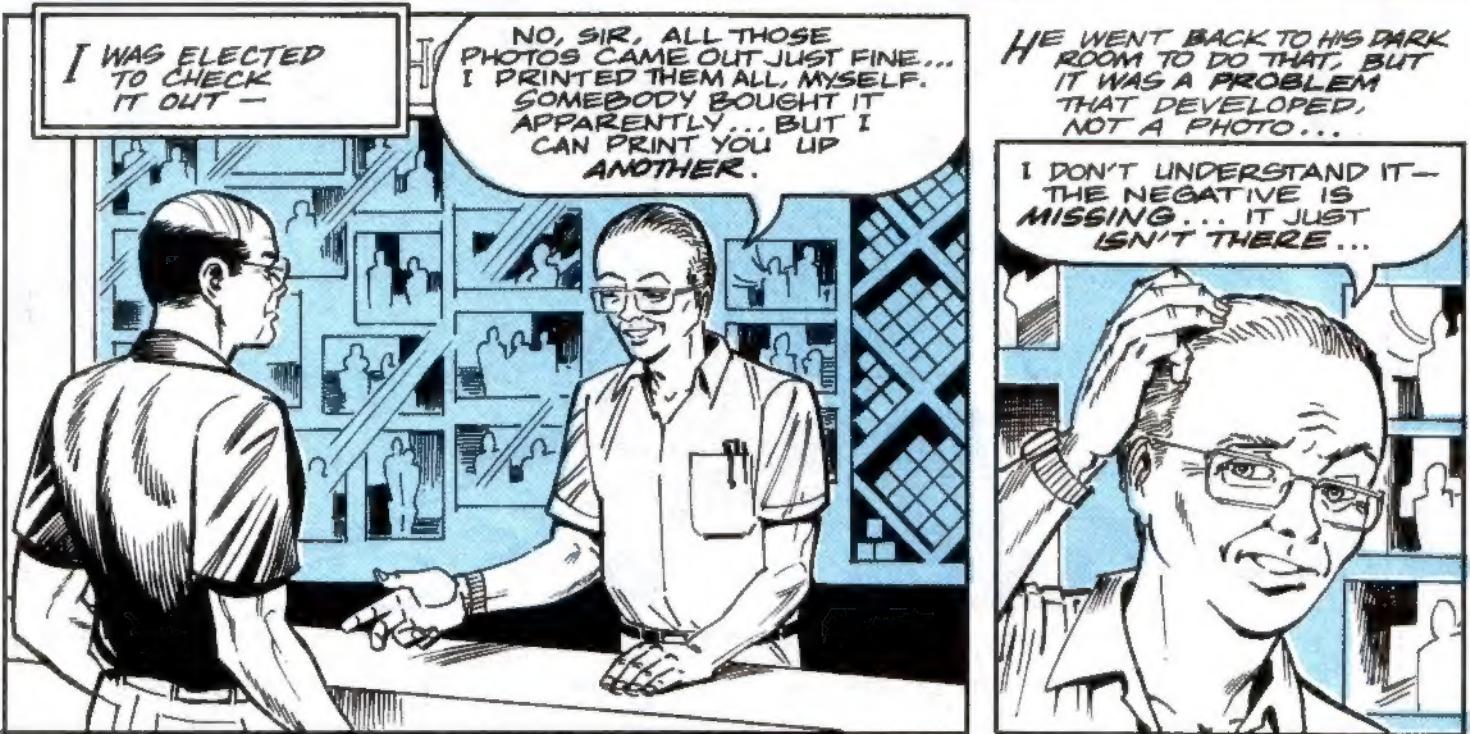


WHY DO YOU PEOPLE INSIST THAT MARIAN WAS ... MURDERED ? ! ? SHE DIDN'T HAVE AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD — NO FAMILY, EITHER ... NOBODY BUT A FEW CLOSE FRIENDS LIKE ... ME .

SHE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE INTENDED TARGET. THE GROUP AROUND YOU ISN'T THE MOST POPULAR ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH .

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING UNUSUAL THAT'S HAPPENED ON THE CRUISE ? ANYTHING THAT SEEMS, IN RETROSPECT, SUSPICIOUS ?





EFFIE HAD THE
PHOTO TAKEN OF HER
AS SHE BOARDED -

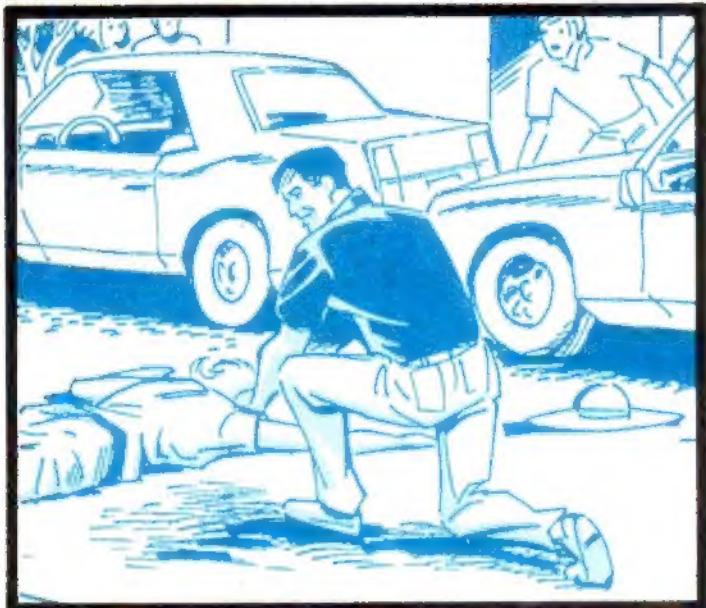
MRS. PLETT AND
MISS MORRISON
WERE RIGHT
BEHIND EFFIE -

YOU CAN
SEE THEM BOTH
CLEARLY IN
THIS PHOTO -

"YES," EFFIE SAID.
"THEY WERE RIGHT BEHIND ME!"



"BUT MISS MORRISON WAS WEARING IT
YESTERDAY, WHEN SHE WAS
KILLED," MS. TREE SAID.



IT WAS A SUNNY DAY,
AND HER EYES WERE
SENSITIVE - I LOANED
IT TO HER -

MRS. PLETT - IF THEY
WERE USING THE PICTURE
OF YOU IN THE HAT FOR
PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION,
THE KILLER MAY HAVE
MISTAKEN MISS MORRISON
FOR YOU -

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
?

SHE MEANS
YOU MAY HAVE
BEEN THE
INTENDED
VICTIM,
MRS. PLETT...



CONTINUED IN THIS ISSUE —

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JOHNNY DYNAMITE

THE WILD MAN FROM CHICAGO



STORY AND ART

by

PETE MORISI

STOOLIE TUGER'S CURSES CAME OUT IN A SHORT WHEEZE AS I POUNDED AWAY AT THE PUFFY, PIMPLY MASS THAT HAD ONCE BEEN HIS FACE.

HIS EYES TOOK ON THAT GLAZED, FAR AWAY LOOK, THAT TOLD ME HE HAD TAKEN ENOUGH. I JERKED HIM TO HIS FEET, WRENCHING HIS COLLAR TAUT ABOUT HIS THROAT AND MUTTERED, "SPIT IT OUT, STOOLIE, YOU KNOW WHAT I'M AFTER." HE LICKED HIS LIPS AS HIS EYES DARTED ABOUT THE SALOON. THE RASPING NOISE THAT CAME FROM HIS THROAT SAID...



I SHOVED TUGER THROUGH THE BACK DOOR OF THE SALOON INTO A DARKENED ALLEY...

'COUGH IT UP, STOOLIE! YOU'VE BEEN AROUND THE UNDERWORLD LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT GOES ON. WHO PUT THE GRAB ON MY SECRETARY, JUDY KANE?

TAWNY ADAM IS THE ONE YOU WANT. S... SHE'S GOT YOUR BROAD. I DON'T KNOW THE DEAL. HONEST. JUST THAT SHE KIDNAPPED YOUR BROAD TO GET TO YOU.



IF YOU'RE GIVING ME A WRONG WORD, STOOLIE, YOU CAN START LOOKING FOR A SIX BY SIX RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT PLAYIN' GAMES!

HONEST JOHNNY, I'M LEVELIN'. CHECK IT YOURSELF. THIS TAWNY BABE IS STASHED OUT AT 612 LAKE DRIVE. THAT'S ALL I KNOW... HONEST.



I LEFT TUGER LYING IN THE ALLEY WITH THE REST OF THE GARBAGE, AND HOPPED INTO THE RENTED CAR. TAWNY ADAM, EH? I HAD HEARD OF HER. SHE HAD MADE THE BIG JUMP FROM SMALL TIME VICE GIRL TO BIG TIME JEWEL PEDDLER. BUT THIS KIDNAP DEAL DIDN'T FIGURE. WHAT DID SHE WANT OF JUDY? WHAT DID SHE WANT OF ME?



I MADE LAKE DRIVE IN TWENTY MINUTES FLAT. I PARKED THE BUS AND CHECKED MY SHOULDER SLING. IF TAWNY ADAM HAD HARMED JUDY IN ANY WAY, SHE'D GET A DUM-DUM IN HER BELLY FOR HER TROUBLE.

YEAH? WHATCHA WANT?



JUDY KANE, PUNK!



I RAMMED MY FIST ACROSS HIS CHEEK WITH A CRACK THAT MADE HIS TEETH GIVE WAY. HE STAGGERED BACK, DROOLING BLOOD FROM HIS LIPS, AS I FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH ONE ROUND-HOUSE AFTER ANOTHER. I WAS ABOUT READY TO PUT HIM AWAY WHEN...

WELL, MR. DYNAMITE, I SEE YOU'VE SAVED US THE TROUBLE OF CONTACTING YOU.



"I LET THE MUSCLE-BOY DROP AND TURNED TO ANSWER THE SOFT VELVET VOICE THAT HAD SPOKEN. TINNY ADAMS WAS A VISION OF BEAUTY, A VISION WITH JET BLACK HAIR, AND SOFT MILK-WHITE FLESH, THAT SEEMED TO ACCENTUATE EVERY CURVE AND MOVEMENT OF HER BODY. SHE HAD EVERYTHING A MAN COULD EVER WANT... BUT SHE ALSO HAD JUDY KANE!"

"OKAY BABY, SPIT IT OUT. WHAT'RE YOU AFTER?"

"I LIKE YOUR STYLE, MR. DYNAMITE, DIRECT AND TO THE POINT. SIT DOWN, I'LL TELL YOU MY PROPOSITION."



"MY ASSOCIATES WERE IN THE PROCESS OF PICKING UP A SHIPMENT OF DIAMONDS THAT SHALL WE SAY, WERE BROUGHT INTO THIS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY..."



"...WHEN ROCCO TORIE AND HIS HOODLUMS DECIDED TO CUT THEMSELVES IN ON THE VENTURE..."



"ALL BUT ONE OF MY MEN WERE WIPE OUT IN THE ENSUING BATTLE AND HE MANAGED TO SWIM TO THE PIER WITH THE DIAMONDS AND HIDE THEM THERE WHILE HE MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE."



"ROCCO TORIE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEM WISE TO WHAT HAPPENED, JOHNNY, AND HAS HIS MEN COVERING THE WATERFRONT, WAITING FOR ME TO MAKE A MOVE. BUT I NO LONGER HAVE AN ORGANIZATION TO BACK ME UP."

"SO, I'M ELECTED TO DO THE JOB, EH? I'M THE PATSY."



"SHE SAID, 'YOU CAN DO IT, JOHNNY. I KNOW YOUR TYPE. YOU CARRY A BADGE ONLY TO MAKE YOUR KILLINGS LEGAL. OTHERWISE, YOU'RE JUST A KILLER, COLD AND RUTHLESS!'"

"THIS KEY WILL OPEN THE BOY TO A MILLION DOLLARS OF UNCUT DIAMONDS, JOHNNY. AND I MEAN TO HAVE THOSE DIAMONDS! YOUR SECRETARY'S LIFE DEPENDS ON YOUR ABILITY TO DELIVER THEM TO ME. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?"

"WHY YOU CHEAP... / OKAY, OKAY, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL. WE'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY... FOR NOW!"



I GOT THE DETAILS AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE HIDDEN DIAMONDS, AND HEADED DOWNTOWN. TAWNY ADAMS WOULD GET HER LOOT OKAY, AND A LOT MORE BEFORE I WAS THROUGH.



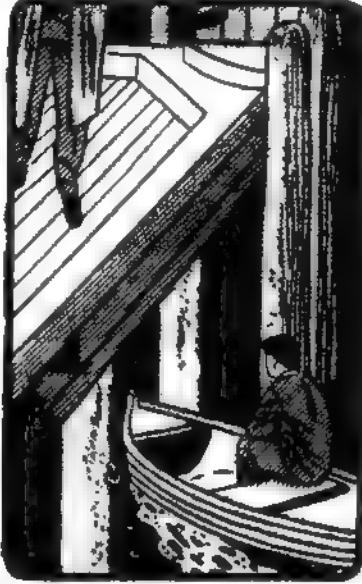
I PARKED THE BUS A FEW BLOCKS FROM THE PIER, AND WALKED THE REST OF THE WAY. WHAT I SAW THERE, I DIDN'T LIKE.



I HEADED FOR THE BEACH AND UNTIED ONE OF THE SMALL FISHING BOATS ANCHORED THERE.



AND LET THE CURRENT TAKE ME BACK TO THE PIER, PAST THE HAWK-LIKE EYES OF ROCCO TORIE'S BOYS.



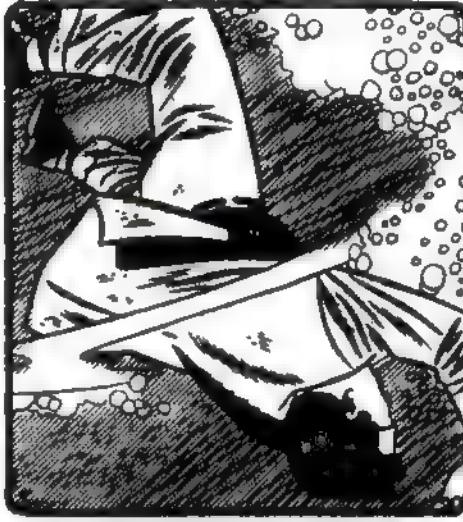
I LEFT THE BOAT AND WENT QUIETLY TO WHERE THE DIAMONDS WERE HIDDEN. THE DIAMONDS THAT WOULD BUY JUDY'S LIFE, BUT I WASN'T QUIET ENOUGH...

OKAY, BUSTER, YOU'VE HAD IT!

UNNN?



IN ONE FAST MOVEMENT, I FELL TO THE SIDE AND INTO THE WATER. ROCCO TORIE DESERVED MORE CREDIT. I DIDN'T FIGURE HE HAD BRAINS ENOUGH TO PLANT ONE OF HIS MUSCLES BEHIND THE PIER.



I REACHED FOR THE 45 AS I WAS ABOUT TO SURFACE, HOPING THAT THE WATER HADN'T JAMMED IT. IT HADN'T!



THE SHOUTS AND HURRIED FOOTSTEPS ON THE PIER ABOVE, TOLD ME I WAS FINISHED UNLESS...! I PICKED UP THE DEAD MUSCLE AND PROPPED HIM UP IN THE SMALL BOAT.



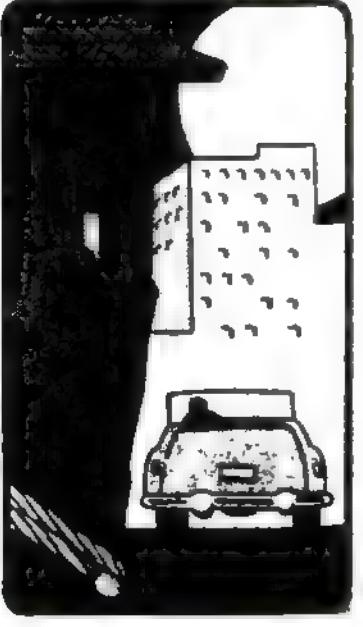
I SHOUTED, 'OKAY YOU PUNKS, COME AND GET ME!' AS I SHOVED THE BOAT FROM BEHIND THE PIER.



I GRABBED THE CONTAINER OF DIAMONDS AND CLIMBED THE FAR END OF THE PIER, AND WATCHED ROCCO TORIE'S BOYS PUMP LEAD INTO THE CORPSE.



THEN I MADE MY WAY TO THE BUS AND HUSTLED IT THROUGH TRAFFIC TO 612 LAKE DRIVE.



WHEN I REACHED THERE, I FOUND TAWNY, HER MUSCLE BOY AND JUDY READY TO LEAVE. TAWNY WALKED TOWARD ME AND TOOK THE METAL BOX OF DIAMONDS FROM MY HANDS.

THANK YOU, JOHNNY. I KNEW YOU WERE THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

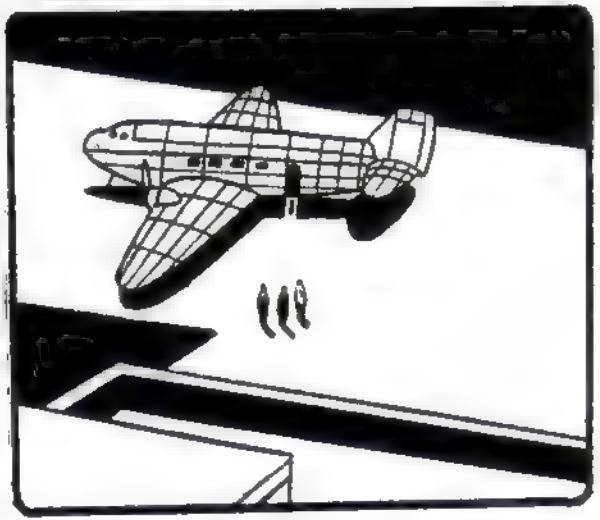
SKIP THE ORCHIDS, BABY. JUST UNTIE JUDY KANE.



SHE SAID, "I HAVE A PLANE READY, JOHNNY. WAITING TO TAKE HARRY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. TAKE US TO THAT PLANE, AND THEN YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR JUDY KANE."



I SHORE UNDER MY BREATH AND SAID "LET'S GET MOVING." TWENTY MINUTES LATER, WE WERE AT A SMALL DESERTED AIRFIELD ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CHICAGO. TAWNY ADAMS, HARRY AND MYSELF HEADED FOR THE PLANE, WHILE JUDY REMAINED IN THE CAR, SITTING TARGET... IN CASE I TRIED GETTING CUTE.



YOU HANDLED YOUR END OF THE DEAL VERY NICELY, JOHNNY. IT'S TOO BAD WE'RE ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FENCE. WE COULD MAKE A GOOD TEAM.

WE'LL MEET AGAIN, BABY. AND WHEN WE DO, THINGS'LL BE DIFFERENT...

A LOT DIFFERENT!



SHE CAME UP CLOSE AND SAID, "I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE, JOHNNY!"



SHE BROKE THE CLINCH AND STEPPED BACK SAYING, "SO LONG, JOHNNY-BOY!" THEN COOWEBS SEEMED TO SPIN AROUND IN MY HEAD.



THE DRONE OF THE PLANE'S ENGINES CUT INTO THE CRAZY HAZE OF WIRES THAT WAS PLAYING TRICKS WITH MY MIND. I STAGGERED TO MY FEET AND MADE MY WAY TO THE BUS. JUDY KANE SAT THERE HELPLESS, WITH A PLEADING LOOK IN HER EYES. I UNTIED HER AND HUSTLED THE BUS BACK TO THE CITY.

JOHNNY... THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE... WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?

THAT RAP ON THE HEAD DID IT BABY. NOW TAWNY ADAMS IS GOING TO PAY THROUGH THE NOSE. SHE'S PUSHING HER LUCK TOO FAR.



I PARKED A FEW BLOCKS FROM 612 LAKE DRIVE AND WALKED TO TAWNY'S PLACE WITH JUDY KANE. THEN WE WAITED. I WENT THROUGH A PACK OF CHESTIES, UNTIL...



TAWNY ADAMS WALKED IN FIRST... AND INTO A ROUND-HOUSE THAT CAUGHT HER FLUSH ON THE JAW. SHE WOULDN'T SMILE FOR A LONG TIME.



HARRY PLAYED IT CUTE, AND DUCKED OUT OF MY REACH, TOSSING THE BOX OF DIAMONDS AT ME TO KNOCK ME OFF STRIDE.



THEN HE WENT FOR HIS GUN... THAT WAS HIS LAST MISTAKE.



HENNESSY CAME DOWN IN ANSWER TO MY CALL AND PICKED UP THE PIECES. NOW IT WAS OVER... TAWNY ADAMS WOULDN'T BOTHER ANYBODY FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

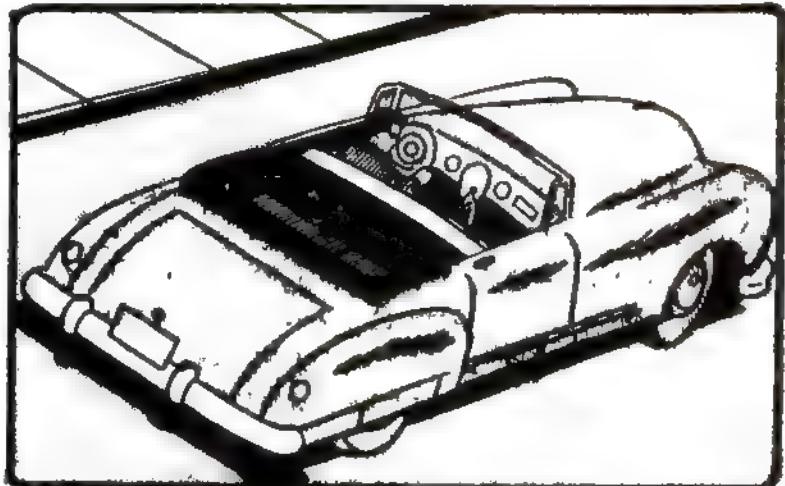


BUT JOHNNY, WHY DID TAWNY ADAMS COME BACK HERE? SHE HAD HER DIAMONDS AND...

YEAH. BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE KEY TO THE BOX, JUDY. I HAD THAT. TAWNY THOUGHT SHE HAD FORGOTTEN IT, AND CAME BACK TO PICK IT UP.



I SAID, 'SHE COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON BREAKING THE BOX OPEN FOR FEAR OF RUINING THE UNCUT DIAMONDS. JUDY STARTED TO SAY, 'BUT HOW DID YOU GET...' AND THEN BLUSHED, AS SHE FIGURED IT OUT. YEAH, TAWNY ADAMS WAS A REAL CUTE BABE, ALL RIGHT. A CUTE BABE WHO LIKED TO SNUGGLE REAL CLOSE WHEN SHE KISSED.



THE END

MY NAME'S HARRY WELCH, AND I'M NO PRIVATE EYE. I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GUY WHO HAULS A BIG DOUBLE TRAILER FOR TRANSPORT TRUCKERS. BUT I GOT INTO A BIG SCRAPE WITH A GORGEOUS REDHEAD THE OTHER NIGHT THAT WOULD TURN A PRIVATE EYE GREEN WITH JEALOUSY... BECAUSE MAN, THAT REDHEAD WAS MURDER!

MURDER À LA REDHEAD



IT ALL STARTED WHEN I STOPPED INTO BOYLE'S BAR FOR A QUICKIE. ALL OF A SUDDEN THERE'S A THROATY VOICE IN MY EAR...

GOT A MATCH, MISTER?



NATURALLY, I OFFER TO BUY HER A DRINK. HER NAME IS DOREEN. SO ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND...

HARRY, YOU'RE THE MOST ATTRACTIVE GUY I'VE MET IN YEARS! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AND GO UP TO MY PLACE!

GO UP? LOOK HONEY, YOU'VE ONLY KNOWN ME A HALF HOUR. IF THIS IS A GAG...

ON THE LEVEL HARRY, BUT LET ME GO FIRST, YOU COME UP LATER. PEOPLE KNOW ME HERE.

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BABY!



SO I WENT IN AND DONT KID ME, SO WOULD YOU! I PUNCHED THE BUZZER, STILL WONDERING WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. BUT WHEN SHE OPENED THE DOOR...

MAYBE I'M A SUCKER, WHY SHOULD A DOLL LIKE THIS PICK ME OUT OF THE CROWD AND INVITE ME HOME? MAYBE I OUGHT TO BEAT IT RIGHT...

HELLO, SWEETIE...

I QUIT WONDERING!

COME ON IN AND HAVE A DRINK!

I.. I SURE COULD USE ONE!

WOW! HOLD MY HAND, MOTHER, I'M ABOUT TO FALL!



SO I KISSED HER. WELL,, DID YOU EVER TRY ONE OF THOSE ELECTRIC GADGETS THEY HAVE IN PENNY ARCADES, THE ONE'S WHERE YOU GRAB THE HANDLES AND SEE HOW MUCH OF A JOLT YOU CAN STAND? BROTHER!! AND I WAS ABOUT FINDING OUT WHERE MY OWN MELTING POINT WAS...



WHEN I FOUND OUT THERE WAS NO MAYBE ABOUT WHAT I'D BEEN THINKING OUTSIDE DOREEN'S DOOR... I WAS A SUCKER!

HELLO, VIC! NICE LITTLE SURPRISE PARTY, HUH?

HEY! WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU..?



"AND WHO'S THIS VIC? MY NAME'S HARRY WELCH. YOU GOT THE WRONG..."

DON'T GIVE ME THAT, YOU SMALL TIME, CHISELIN' GAMBLER! CON MY BROTHER OUT OF TEN G'S, WILL YA? YOU'RE PAVIN' OFF RIGHT NOW! PULL THE BLINDS AND TURN UP THE RADIO, SPIDER!



MY ONLY CHANCE WAS TO GET CLOSE TO THE FAT ONE, SO I KEPT MOVING IN, SLOW...

GIMME A CHANCE, FRIEND. YOU'VE GOT ME COVERED! LOOK I'M JUSTA TRUCK DRIVER, YOU CAN TELL...

YOU'RE NUTS, VIC! IT WON'T WORK!



AND I LET HIM HAVE IT! IT WAS ONLY A SLAP. I NEVER HAD TIME TO CLOSE MY FISTS... BUT IT HAS ENOUGH TO GET HIS GUN...

OWWWWW!



SO THE GUY THEY WANTED WAS A GAMBLER. I WAS A TRUCK DRIVER, BUT I KNEW THEY'D NEVER LISTEN. I NEEDED AN OUT, AND FAST! AND SOMEBODY MUSTA BEEN PRAYING FOR ME THAT VERY MINUTE, 'CAUSE I THOUGHT OF ONE...

LOOK, IF THIS GUY VIC IS A GAMBLER, I CAN PROVE I'M NOT HIM! JUST LOOK AT MY HANDS.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOUR HANDS...



'CAUSE THE CLOSER I GOT, THE BIGGER HIS CANNON LOOKED! BUT IT WORKED! HE SHOT A QUICK LOOK AT MY HANDS...

LOOK AT MY HANDS, THEY'RE ALL CALLOUSED! NOW WOULD A GAMBLER HAVE 'EM?

I TELL YOU IT WON'T...



...AND BROTHER, I NEEDED THAT ROB. SURE AS I WAS OF WHAT WAS GOING ON BEHIND ME!

I'LL GET 'IM! HE'S AS GOOD AS GROAKED!



I MADE IT AROUND IN TIME TO TAKE CARE OF SPIDER. ALRIGHT, BUT I COULD HEAR THE FAT BOY'S BROGANS POUNDING THE FLOOR BEHIND ME, SO I JUST KEPT SPINNING AROUND LIKE A CRAZY ROULETTE WHEEL.



AND I MADE IT THAT TIME, TOO! BUT IT WASN'T A SQUARE SHOT, AND I HAD A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH FRIEND MITCH...



SO I FIGURED I HAD TIME, TO CHOP A FEW POUNDS OFF THE BIG HUNK OF LARD BEFORE SOMEBODY CALLED FOR THE SQUAD CARS!

THAT'S FOR PICKING THE WRONG GUY TO MAKE A CORPSE OUT OF...



AND THAT'S FOR NOT GIVING A SUCKER A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN, AND FOR SPOILING WHAT COULD'VE BEEN THE HOTTEST DATE I EVER HAD!

NO DON'T HIT ME ANY... OOOHHH!



I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT DOREEN. I LOOKED AROUND AND.....

DON'T KILL ME, VIC! THEY MADE ME DO IT! THEY PROMISED ME A HUNDRED BUCKS BUT I DIDN'T DO IT FOR THAT! THEY SAID THEY'D KILL ME, VIC...VIC...

DO ALL YOU CHARACTERS HAVE TO GET HIT IN THE HEAD TO BELIEVE A GUY? FOR THE LAST TIME, I'M NOT THIS VIC CHARACTER ANYMORE THAN I'M LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD!



SHE STARTED FOR ME THEN WITH THE LOOSE-HIPPED, UNCONSCIOUS GRACE OF A CAT HEADED FOR A BOWL OF CREAM.

YOU'RE.. YOU'RE REALLY NOT VIC LANCE? HONEST?

HONEST.. IF YOU'RE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORD MEANS!



AND SUDDENLY SHE WAS IN MY ARMS AGAIN. THE WHOLE PERFECT LENGTH OF HER QUIVERING LIKE A BEAUTIFUL, LIVING DYNAMO...

THEN TAKE ME WITH YOU, HARRY.. TAKE ME WITH YOU! THEY'LL KILL ME IF YOU DON'T FOR FINGERING THE WRONG GUY!



AND THEN I REMEMBERED! THIS WAS THE MURDEROUS MAN-TRAP WHO WAS WILLING TO SELL A GUY DOWN THE RIVER FOR A LOUSY HUNDRED BUCKS!

LAY OFF, BABY! I'VE HAD ONE KISS OF DEATH ALREADY TONIGHT!

HARRY! DON'T BE CRAZY! I LOVE YOU! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!



SO I WENT BACK TO BOYLE'S. WHERE ELSE? A GUY NEEDS A LITTLE MEDICINE AFTER A NIGHT LIKE THAT. I FIGURED DOREEN WOULD BE LONG GONE BEFORE I TIpped THE COPS. FUNNY, BUT I EVEN HOPED SHE WOULD. WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE A FRAME LIKE THAT HANGING AWAY IN A JAIL. NO MATTER WHAT SHE DID.



...AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, HER MOUTH WAS BURNING MINE, THE CURRENT WAS SENDING FIRE THROUGH MY BLOODSTREAM LIKE IT HAD BEFORE...

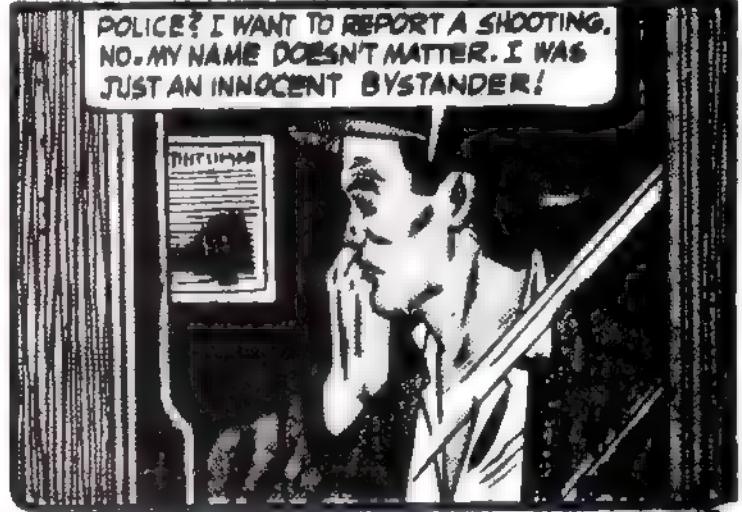


THEY'LL KILL ME WHEN THEY COME TO, TAKE ME WITH YOU, HARRY!

TOO BAD SISTER.. BUT YOU'VE GOT LEGS TO WALK OUT. WHY DON'T YOU? YOU'D BETTER. SOON AS I CLEAR OF HERE, I'M CALLING THE COPS!



I WAITED AWHILE, THEN WENT TO THE BOOTH. ONE THING WAS STILL BOTHERING ME. I'D THOUGHT THAT EVEN HOODS HAD THEIR BETTER SIDE, BUT I GUESS NOT. COULDN'T THOSE MONKEYS HAVE WAITED ABOUT 15 MINUTES BEFORE THEY BUSTED IN ON US? AFTER ALL, EVEN IN THE DEATH HOUSE THEY DON'T DRAG A GUY TO THE HOT SEAT WITHOUT GIVIN' HIM A CHANCE TO FINISH HIS FAVORITE DISH!



POLICE? I WANT TO REPORT A SHOOTING. NO. MY NAME DOESN'T MATTER. I WAS JUST AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER!

THE END.

15145 OXFORD DRIVE, OAK FOREST, IL 60452

(312-) 687-5765

TERMS: All items are new and stocked in depth. However, please indicate if you prefer a refund or a credit if something does sell out. Please make sure your name and address is inside your letter. Shipping is \$2.50. Please specify if you want your order sent out by post office or UPS (we must have a street address for UPS). Money orders preferred.

MAX ALLAN COLLINS NOVELS (AND STORIES)

*CARIBBEAN BLUES - Paperjacks pb. Authors' advance donated to Literacy Volunteers; Max Collins, Warren Murphy, Gregory Macdonald, Robert Randisi, Mary Higgins Clark, Richard Meyers, and Molly Cochran wrote this round-robin style mystery taking place on a cruise - on a cruise. A wild, funny adventure. Set in the '30s, Collins chapters feature Nate Heller. \$3.95.

*NEON MIRAGE - the new Nate Heller hardcover from St. Martin's. Heller, Bugsy Siegel and Virginia Hill collide in 1947 Las Vegas. "Unputdownable," Kirkus says. Many b & w period photos. Signed bookplate by Collins laid in. Recommended. \$18.95.

SPREE - TOR Hardcover, first Nolan novel in six years. Ex-thief Nolan (and Jon) must help the revenge-happy Comforts loot a shopping mall, or Nolan's girl friend Sherry will die. Recommended. 311 pages. Bookplate signed by Collins. \$15.95.

PRIMARY TARGET - Foul Play Press hardcover, the first Quarry novel in ten years. When he refuses to become involved in a political assassination, Quarry becomes an immediate loose end. Recommended. Bookplate signed by Collins. \$15.95.

HARDBOILED - SUMMER '88 Issue, features Part Two of four-part serialization of MOURN THE LIVING, unpublished Nolan novel. \$3.

TOMORROW I DIE - Collection of Mickey Spillane short stories and novelettes from 1950s. Mysterious Press hardcover. Edited and introduced by Max Allan Collins and dustjacket by Steranko. Published in 1983 at \$14.95. Includes the complete, great short novel, "Everybody's Watching Me." \$2.95.

BLACK LIZARD ANTHOLOGY OF CRIME FICTION - trade paperback. Features new Nate Heller short story, "Scrap," plus stories by Ed Gorman, Harlan Ellison, Bill Pronzini, etc. Recommended. \$8.95.

OTHER NEW BOOKS:

ADVENTURES OF SATAN HALL - Carroll John Daly. Mysterious Press trade paperback, four short novels from Detective Fiction Weekly of the 1930s. Hall was a police detective in the Dirty Harry mode, as relentless and cold-blooded as the criminals he fought. From the originator of the hardboiled detective story. \$8.95.

"MURDER CRUISE"

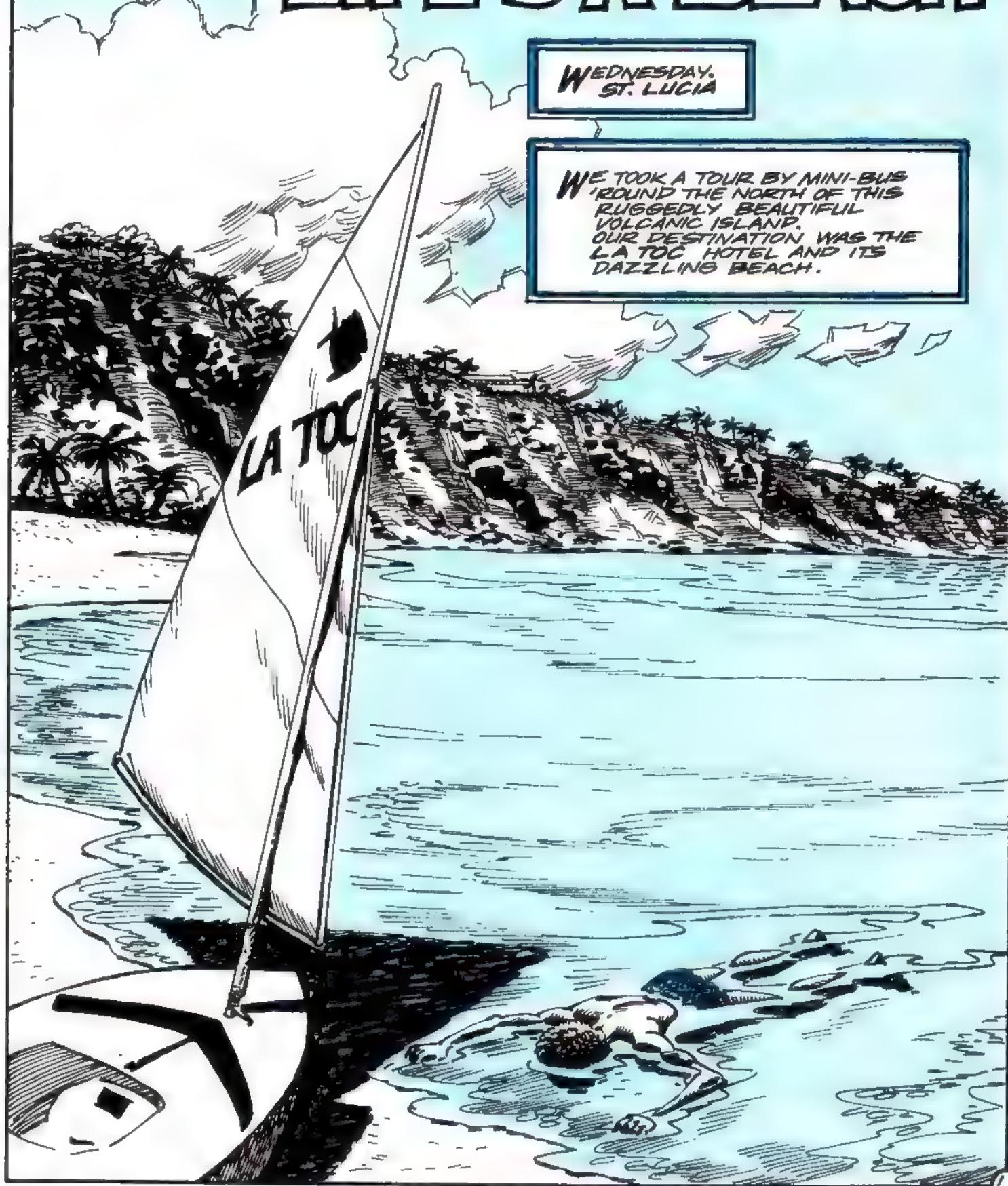
A MIST-TREE TALE

BY MAX COLLINS, TERRY BEATTY AND GARY KATO

Day Five: LIFE'S A BEACH

WEDNESDAY.
ST. LUCIA

WE TOOK A TOUR BY MINI-BUS 'ROUND THE NORTH OF THIS RUGGEDLY BEAUTIFUL VOLCANIC ISLAND. OUR DESTINATION WAS THE LA TOC HOTEL AND ITS DAZZLING BEACH.



BY "WE," OF COURSE, I MEAN THE TREE INVESTIGATIONS, INC., PARTY—PLUS MRS. PLETT, WHOM WE WERE KEEPING CLOSE GUARD ON, NOW THAT WE FELT HER LIFE WAS IN DANGER.

BUT WHY
WOULD ANYONE
WANT TO
MURDER
ME?

WE'D BEEN UP HALF THE NIGHT WITH HER, SORTING THROUGH HER PAST, AND THAT OF HER LATE HUSBAND, LOOKING FOR SOME REASON; BUT THE RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER HAD LED A SINGULARLY UNEVENTFUL LIFE...

SHE HAS A GOOD POINT.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S BACKGROUND...

WELL,
WE COULD
RESEARCH THAT
BETTER WHEN WE
GET BACK TO THE
MAINLAND. I STILL
THINK IT'S SIGNIFICANT
THAT SHE WON
THAT CONTEST...

I HAD THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS SOMEBODY HAD SENT MRS. PLETT THE TICKETS, TELLING HER SHE'D WON SOME NONEXISTENT CONTEST...

I SPOKE TO JULIE CARRUTHERS ABOUT THAT... IT WAS A LEGITIMATE CONTEST ALL RIGHT. ADVERTISED ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES.

I SHOULD KNOW! I ENTERED IT MYSELF! NO ONE FORCED ME...



IN THAT CASE, WHOEVER IT IS THAT WANTS MRS. PLETT OUT OF THE WAY HAS FOLLOWED HER ONTO THE CRUISE... AN "ACCIDENT" ON SOME CARIBBEAN ISLAND IS BETTER THAN HITTING HER ON HOME GROUND, AFTER ALL.

THIS ALL SEEMS SO... SO UNREAL... HOW COULD A DREAM VACATION TURN INTO SUCH A NIGHTMARE...

HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MRS. PLETT. THIS KIND OF STUFF HAPPENS TO US ALL THE TIME.

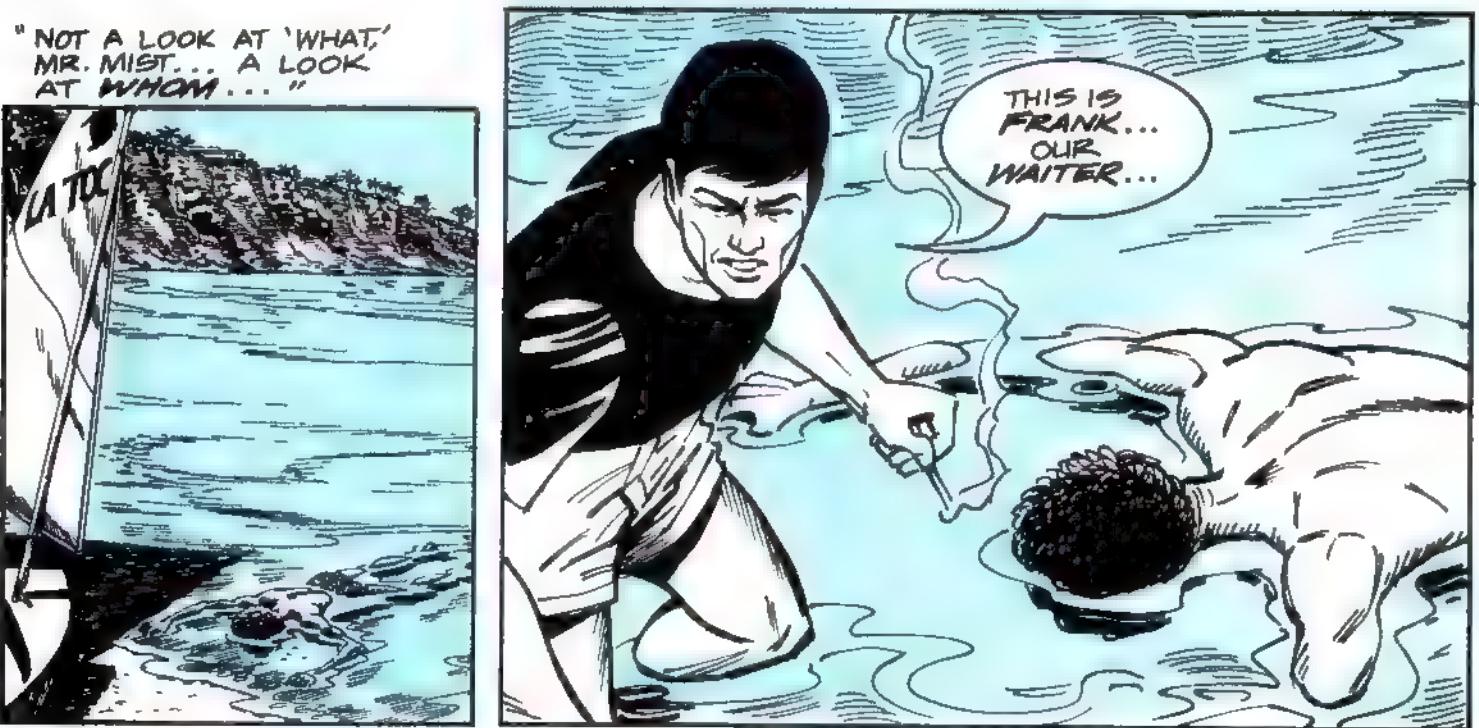


MS. TREE - MIGHT I HAVE A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME? AND YOUR ASSOCIATE MR. MIST?

WHY, CERTAINLY, CAPTAIN.

SURE THING.





ONE WONDERS WHAT BECAME OF HIS FEMALE COMPANION, WHOEVER SHE MIGHT BE. DROWNED, TOO, PERHAPS?

THAT SAILBOAT DIDN'T WASH ON SHORE, LIKE FRANK HERE MAY HAVE. IT'S A LITTLE TOO CAREFULLY ARRANGED.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FRANK, CAPTAIN?

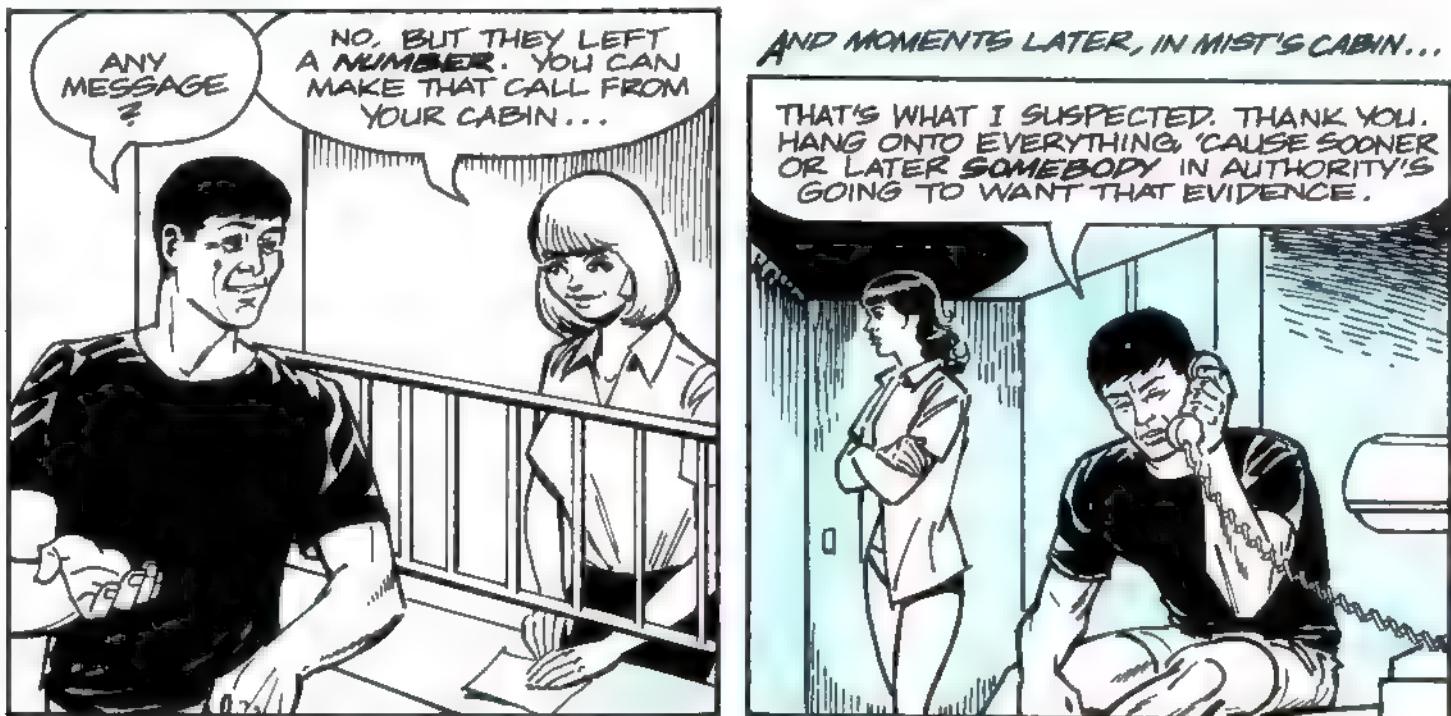
VERY LITTLE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS. WHY, MR. MIST, HAVE YOU BEEN ASKING MY CREW MEMBERS QUESTIONS ABOUT A CERTAIN MR. JACKSON?

"AND WHAT, MS. TREE, MIGHT ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE APPARENT HIT-AND-RUN ACCIDENT THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF ONE OF MY PASSENGERS ON MONDAY?"

CAPTAIN, I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL YOU.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT I CAN BE YOUR ALLY, OR YOUR ENEMY... THE CHOICE IS YOURS. BUT MY SHIP, AND THIS CRUISE, ARE MY DOMINION ... YOU'D BEST KEEP THAT IN MIND, AS WELL.

I KNOW VERY LITTLE, CAPTAIN. WHEN I DO...



"MAYBE I PICKED UP THE WRONG GLASS... WE'RE ALL CROWDED TOGETHER AT THAT TABLE, IT WOULD BE EASY ENOUGH..."



AND AT DINNER THAT NIGHT—

"WHEN" ... AND I KNOW WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TIP TILL THE END OF THE CRUISE, FELIX, BUT I HAVE A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU IN MY PURSE..."





Address all letters of
comment to

SWAK
P O BOX 1007
MUSCATINE IA
52761

Message from Max

As most of you know, the special 50th issue of MS. TREE is fast approaching. It will include, in addition to the second and concluding part of "The Death of Ms. Tree," a flexi disc of "The Theme from Ms. Tree" (written by myself and my musical collaborator Paul Thomas, performed by our group CRUSIN'); it will also include a portfolio of guest artists, in many cases doing their interpretations of our girl. These have begun to come in and they are terrific; among the drawings we've received thus far are contributions from Will Eisner and Moebius. The "Ms. Tree" theme has been recorded and it's great. No kidding. You're going to love it. The issue will be 48 pages, and will also include a lengthy Mike Mist prose short story written by Barb Collins and edited by myself (it's terrific). Whether or not "Johnny Dynamite" makes an appearance will depend on how many guest drawings come in. But it will be, believe it, a hell of an issue.

And you MS. TREE fans have a hell of a potential problem. The advance orders on this issue do not reflect its special contents; in fact, the orders (at this point) are slightly under our usual level. This, we are told, reflects the dollars-and-cents crunch your local comic book shop is feeling because of the glut caused by Marvel and (to a lesser degree) DC. Reprints, bi-weeklies, weeklies...according to a recent CBG, if you were to buy one copy of everything published in a recent month, you'd need around \$1100!

So MS. TREE and all independent comic books are threatened by this monetary crunch, and the immediate problem is that many of you stand to not get a copy of our special 50th issue. Obviously, with these guest artists in the book, non-MS. TREE readers who follow those artists are likely to pick up a copy; and hard-core MS. TREE fans who do not want to tear out the bound-in flexi may decide to buy one issue to collect and another to read (and play). And the popularity of "Wild Dog" (thus far we're among the more popular features in ACTION WEEKLY, according to reader polls) may increase Collins/Beatty interest.

So what do you need to do? You need to reserve a copy of MS. TREE #50 at your comic-book shop now. We want to make sure that our loyal readers can get this very special issue. Because of this current crunch, it may be wise of you to reserve MS. TREE every month; some of you may wish to subscribe, although quite honestly we prefer that you support your local comic-book ship.

Also, we may be doing a signed, limited edition of 200 copies with a special Beatty MS. TREE drawing bound-in that will not appear elsewhere. We'll let you know.

In the meantime, reserve your copy - don't miss out.

Dear Max,

Please do not change the current format on MS. TREE. I'd rather have twelve pages of "Ms. Tree" every month than four full issues and eight Ms. Tree-less months a year. I enjoy and am very grateful for this format. MS. TREE has introduced me to many new things such as Johnny Dynamite, Dick Tracy, and mystery novels (especially yours).

Three years ago, I read nothing but comics from "the Big Two;" so my uncle, who had been collecting independents for some time, suggested them to me and loaned me #1. I got hooked and soon doubled the amount of money I spent on comics (from a measly \$10 to \$20 a month.) After Chinese New Year, I felt exceedingly rich (married friends and family give tiny red envelopes with money inside to children for good

luck) and decided to experiment with comics I've never seen or read before. That month I ordered from The Westfield Company forty-four comic books--thirty of them independents. I have to admit, though, I picked them haphazardly. Looking at free flyers (remember "New Age"?), I ordered comics that my uncle recommended and ones that sounded good. An early A-V issue of MS. TREE was one of those that sounded good.

Later on when I received the issue, I found out that it was good.

What turned me on to MS. TREE was that it was a well-written, exciting, mystery comic with a female gun-toting detective who uses violence to get the job done. Oh yes, to show what a moronic freshman I was, I did not know why Ms. Tree was named



Ms. Tree until my sophomore year. That year when I went to Comics and Comix to buy two recent back issues of MS. TREE, I remember the clerk there remarking, "Oh, have you been reading MS. TREE long? It's the best mystery/detective comic book out today." After reading the two, I agreed with the clerk and bought the rest of the back issues the next day.

From last October to this November, I've read twenty-two books--nineteen mysteries and sixteen of them written by you. First I read your four QUARRY novels (in order), then your NATHAN HELLER novels (in order), then your MALLORY novels (not in order). After reading Quarry, it was really hard to get used to Nathan Heller in the first few chapters of True Detective. When I first read Mallory, he was very hard to get used to, too, because he was different from Quarry and Heller. Now I know that the three characters were meant to think differently and be different from each other. And what about Nolan? Well, I'm afraid I haven't read one yet. It's because I can't find them anywhere! I combed through all the book stores in S.F. and found NOLAN #2, 3, and 4 published by Pinnacle, but I can't find the others. I don't want to read a series out of order again.

When I was reading the Heller novels, I kept looking up the names in my uncle's Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion to see if those people were real (Sally Rand, George Raft, etc.). I'm just wondering, but is or was Mary Ann Beame a real person or what?

At night, I usually read until I feel sleepy, but when I read your books, I never get sleepy. Your books are REALLY mysteries. Anything can happen at any time (especially, in QUARRY. That heartless guy kills people when you least expect it). Your books are hard as hell to put down.

I bought Midnight Haul around May, I think. I never intended to read it for a while because (would you believe) I was running out of Max Collins books to read and it was written in third person. It was a real shock to my system after reading Quarry, Heller, and Mallory in first person. I never knew about Love Canal before and that's probably a good thing because if I knew, it would have kind of screwed up the story for me. While I was flipping through my Economics book a few days after I finished Midnight Haul, I found a short summary of the history of Love Canal. You didn't change the facts too much. It said that The Hooker Chemical and Plastics Company, after burying tons of chemical wastes, donated the

land to the Niagara Falls Board of Education which was later used the land to build homes and an elementary school. Years later, residents found chemicals seeping through their lawns and basements. I recently bought Love Canal-My Story, written by Lois Marie Gibbs, for 98 cents.

Your characters have sex so much (not that I mind) that I was wondering if you would ever use AIDS in a plot. I also wondered if any of your characters would catch something (one of your characters received the clap or something), or if you would preach safe sex. After reading Nice Weekend for a Murder and the first few chapters of Primary Target, my question was answered. Thank You.

And contrary to popular belief, not all the males in San Francisco are gay. Is this a popular stereotype of San Francisco in the Midwest and East? Or are we stereotyping the Midwest and East that everyone over there thinks that we're all gay? S.F. Giant fans came back home from St. Louis during the playoffs with horror stories about St. Louis fans heckling them, calling them fags, and running away mockingly yelling that the Giants fans have AIDS.

Please. Next time you have a character that is gay, don't have him come from S.F.

Last Friday (a day after my 17th birthday), I decided to spend some of the money my relatives gave me for my birthday; so after school, I went to the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore and bought Primary Target, Spree, used hardcovers of True Detective and True Crime, a first printing of The Broker, and other books. I only had \$82 in my pocket. I used \$75. I couldn't (and still can't) believe I spent that much. There was an autographed Nice Weekend for a Murder, but I was not going to shell out another \$15 to get your autograph (even though I thought about it).

My friends are a different story. When I tell them I read MS. TREE they give me this funny look like they just stepped on shit. They probably think, "What does Wylie read a comic about a...a... woman for? Is he crazy?"

I guess they think its un-Macho to read about a woman. I think I better give them a copy of MS. TREE to prove to them how wrong they are about this comic book.

Here are some comments and questions I have for you:

1. In last week's CBG, you stated that the third option has been picked up for a Ms. Tree movie. What



does "option" mean and what happened to the first two options?

2. I've looked at the Bud Plant catalog and saw that there's a book of your DICK TRACY strip available. Great! There's no paper in the Bay Area that has your strip. Serials are not too popular here. STEVE ROPER is found in the classified ads section.

3. No more 3D specials, please! It kills my eyes.

4. I recently received "The Bobby Darin Story" by ATCO. I read that Rock and Roll Special and became interested in Darin, so when I joined the Columbia Record Club, I picked the record. I also have this urge to listen to "Psychedelic Siren." Are all those records by your group still available? Do they still cost the same? Have you recorded and released new albums?

5. I imagine that you're quite pissed off at McDonald's for screwing around with the song "Mack the Knife."

6. In your Mickey Spillane book, there's a picture near the beginning. It looks like it was taken at a convention. Spillane wore a Lite Beer shirt. There's a person to his right with his face turned away from the camera. Is that you?

7. Since you wrote a whole book about him, I figured he was a good author, so I bought 4 Spillane books (Vengeance is Mine, The Big Kill, The Snake, and I, The Jury). I tried to read Vengeance... but after twenty pages, I said "UGH! Maybe some other time!" Do you recommend any other authors? I have read books from Sue Grafton, Julie Smith, and Dashiell Hammett. I have books written by Raymond Chandler, Bill Pronzini, and James M. Cain. Which "I, The Jury" Movie should I watch?

8. What kind of computer and word processor do you use? I am using my Apple IIe and a totally lousy word processor that cannot underline or do anything special. I recently bought Paperclip by Batteries Included, but it's quite complicated and I haven't the time to figure it out.

9. Do you swim as often as you write?

Wylie Wong, San Francisco, CA

Thank you for your long and enthusiastic letter, Wylie. (Believe it or not, folks, I've edited this one way down...in fact, this letter came in last November and is only seeing print now because I knew it would take time to edit.) Now, Wylie, I'll respond to some of your points and answer some of your questions.

Spree, the seventh published NOLAN novel, has just been reprinted in paper by TOR. There is a possibility that TOR - or someone else - may publish the very first NOLAN, Mourn the Living, written in 1967, and unpublished until its recent serialization-in-progress in HARDBOILED magazine. You can get HARDBOILED (and current books of mine) from Bob Weinberg, who advertises in these pages. And as for autographs, Weinberg M.A.C. material is either signed or has a signed bookplate.

The character Mary Ann Beame in True Detective is fictional. Whether or not she was real is one of the questions readers most frequently ask, and I take that as a great compliment. As for AIDS in my stories, as you indicate, it has turned up in Nice Weekend for Murder and rates some mentions in Primary Target. And in a recent MS. TREE, we may have had the first "safe sex" panel within the context of a mainstream comics story (Dan's use of a condom).

It's true that San Francisco is stereotyped as a homosexual haven, and it's tempting for a writer to tie into such beliefs. Incidentally, I've come under some fire in a recent AMAZING HEROES article for expressing homophobic attitudes in MS. TREE. I know we have a lot of gay readers, and I hope they understand that I am (as I have frequently said) "an equal opportunity offender." I am also not inclined to respond to criticism like this by inserting a token "positive" gay into a MS. TREE story. I've long had in mind a story that will involve gays, and it will include gays who are good, bad, nice, not nice, etc. Some folks have misinterpreted my comment that homosexuality is not "natural" as a condemnation or moral judgment. It is not. I was talking only about procreation being the primary function of sex; I was not ruling out its recreational value!

Movie options. For several years, MS. TREE was "optioned" by SEPP International, the Smurf folks; this means they paid dough to try to develop the property into a TV or film project. Options can be renewed, usually, and this option was renewed - "picked up" - two times, making a total of three option periods. Recently it lapsed and we'll soon be out on the marketplace again (and we have fairly frequent inquiries - Lorimar was turned away, for instance, because SEPP held the option). Clear?

There are indeed some reprint volumes, from Dragon Lady Press, of my TRACY material, some of it drawn by Rick Fletcher, some of it by current artist Dick Locher. I haven't had contact with the



Dragon Lady folks lately, but I trust we'll be doing more when we all have time.

Congratulations on your good taste in picking up "The Bobby Darin Story." (And yes, whoever turned "Mack the Knife" into another hideous MacDonald's Land character will surely burn in Hell.) I can highly recommend the current album "As Long as I'm Singing," which has many rare Darin performances; the CD just came out, and it has bonus tracks. As for CRUSIN' (a.k.a. The Daybreakers), we are working on an album which will no doubt be advertised in these pages; and you will soon have (if you reserve a copy, anyway) the flexi disc by Crusin' in issue #50. The album THE DAYBREAKERS is still available, as is DIRTY WATER (a compilation album with several Daybreakers and Crusin' tracks); a 45 EP with five songs on gold vinyl by CRUSIN' is available, too. Eight bucks apiece postpaid for the albums, four bucks for the EP; you can write me care of SWAK.

That's me in the Spillane pic, yes. And you should stick with Spillane through an entire book. Try the first book, I the Jury; or perhaps The Girl Hunters. My favorite is One Lonely Night, but that's strong medicine. Both "I the Jury" movies are well worth watching.

I have recently switched to an Epson Equity II-plus with a hard disc. I use WordStar, I swim infrequently; I use swimming metaphorically in the books.

Whew. Wylie, thanks for your interest. But cut down on your sugar intake, will ya?



Max,

I just read in the AMAZING HEROES PREVUE SPECIAL that MS. TREE dies in issue #50. Say it ain't so!

This seems a rather extreme way to end the series. I'm the first person to say that Tree has perhaps outgrown a monthly comic book adventure, but I did hope to be reading her in some format (graphic novel, etc.) for years to come. And while I understand that you can do "untold stories" issues or graphic novels, it just won't be the same, knowing she's no long "with us."

It's certainly a tribute to both you and Terry that I feel so strongly about Michael that I would miss her presence, even if she can return in previous adventures. You've both done a remarkable job of instilling her with a personality so that reading her adventures

has been more like getting a letter from a (dangerous) friend.

You know where you're going with the series, so I don't expect to prevail upon you to change your minds. I just hope we haven't heard the last of our favorite female P.I. - or the last of your comic book activity (I'm certainly looking forward to the return of WILD DOG in ACTION).

Jeff Gelb, Los Angeles, CA

Jeff, the comic book isn't ending, the feature isn't ending, MS. TREE herself isn't ending. She's just gonna die, okay? No big deal. (Congratulations to Jeff on the recent publication of his first horror novel, SPECTERS).



Dear Max,

It's a good bet that Ms. Tree fans will be offended by this letter. I picked up MS. TREE #43, after not having read the last two dozen issues. What encouraged me to buy the magazine was the inclusion of the "Johnny Dynamite" feature. Pete Morisi's work has always been to my liking.

Now on to the second point in my letter. In the letters section, I was somewhat astounded by your easy acceptance of Rick Taylor's detection that "Nicholas Alascia" drew a "Johnny Dynamite" story. I do not own the issue in question, but I assumed most people who collect Charlton realized the byline "Nicholas Alascia" referred to penciller Charles Nicholas and inker Vince Alascia. In a somewhat similar instance, the byline "Chasal" referred to penciller Charles Nicholas and inker Sal Trapani.

I sincerely hope this letter hasn't proven too trivial for you. Thanks for listening.

Dale J. Blakeney, Waco, TX

Thanks for the info, and the positive response to our back-up feature - which I, personally, am proud to share a book with. (Me too - Terry Beatty.)





Ms. Tree #50 (WITH FLEXI-DISC)

This is just a reminder that Ms. Tree, which we solicited for earlier, can be re-ordered through your distributors. Let yours know if you feel you haven't ordered enough of this special collector's edition, as we will be accepting increases in orders until September 20th.

The flexi-disc in it, as well as the portfolio by many guest artists including Moebius and Will Eisner, will make collectors want an extra issue just to bag, so don't be caught short! If you are having any problems getting your orders increased, let us know and we will talk to your distributor for you.

Renegade Releases

1

POLICE STILL SEEK MILVERTON MURDERER. HOLMES DENIES HELP

The Cases of Sherlock Holmes #15

The Strange Case of Charles Augustus Milverton

written by: Arthur Conan Doyle

cover and art by: Dan Day

B & W / 32 pages / \$2.00 US, \$2.50 CDN

"Who is he? I'll tell you Watson, he's the king of all the blackmailers. Heaven help the man, and still more the woman, whose secret and reputation come into the power of Milverton. With a smiling face and a heart of marble he will squeeze and squeeze until he has drained them dry. The fellow is a genius in his way."



#Kazillion+1 September, 1988

How 'bout a nice Hawaiian Punch?

RENEGADE CLEAR THE AIR

"Smells better in here already," says publisher Deni Loubert.

"Shore does," agree assistants, Jennifer Grasberger and Peter Avanzino.

"No comment!" was all that Holmes' assistant, Dr. Watson, had to say.



Artists rendering of said bikers. Neat, huh?

STAR- BIKERS

written and drawn by: Ronn Sutton
B & W / 32 pgs / \$2.00US, \$2.50CDN

This special one-shot will introduce readers to Ronn's own feature in Renegade's newest series, T-Minus-One. Included in this collection of futuristic tales are New Ruins for Old, where a shipwrecked crew survive craziness only to find a new kind of insanity; Wasted Days, poetry by Oscar Wilde, interpreted as he never imagined; Dog Eat Dog, a classic "bar story" with a twist; and Harry, a very existential space story.

ART FER DAYS!

T-Minus-One #1

art and story by:
David Day and Ronn Sutton

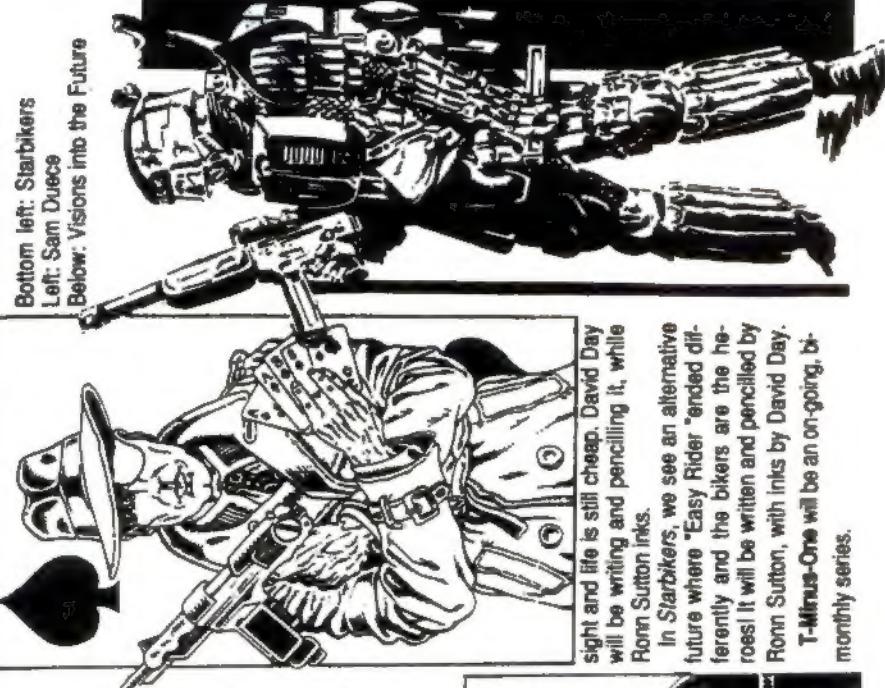
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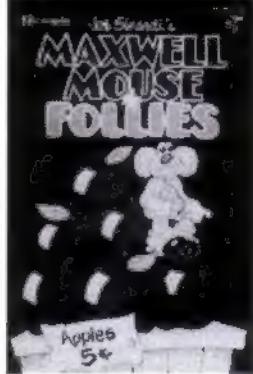
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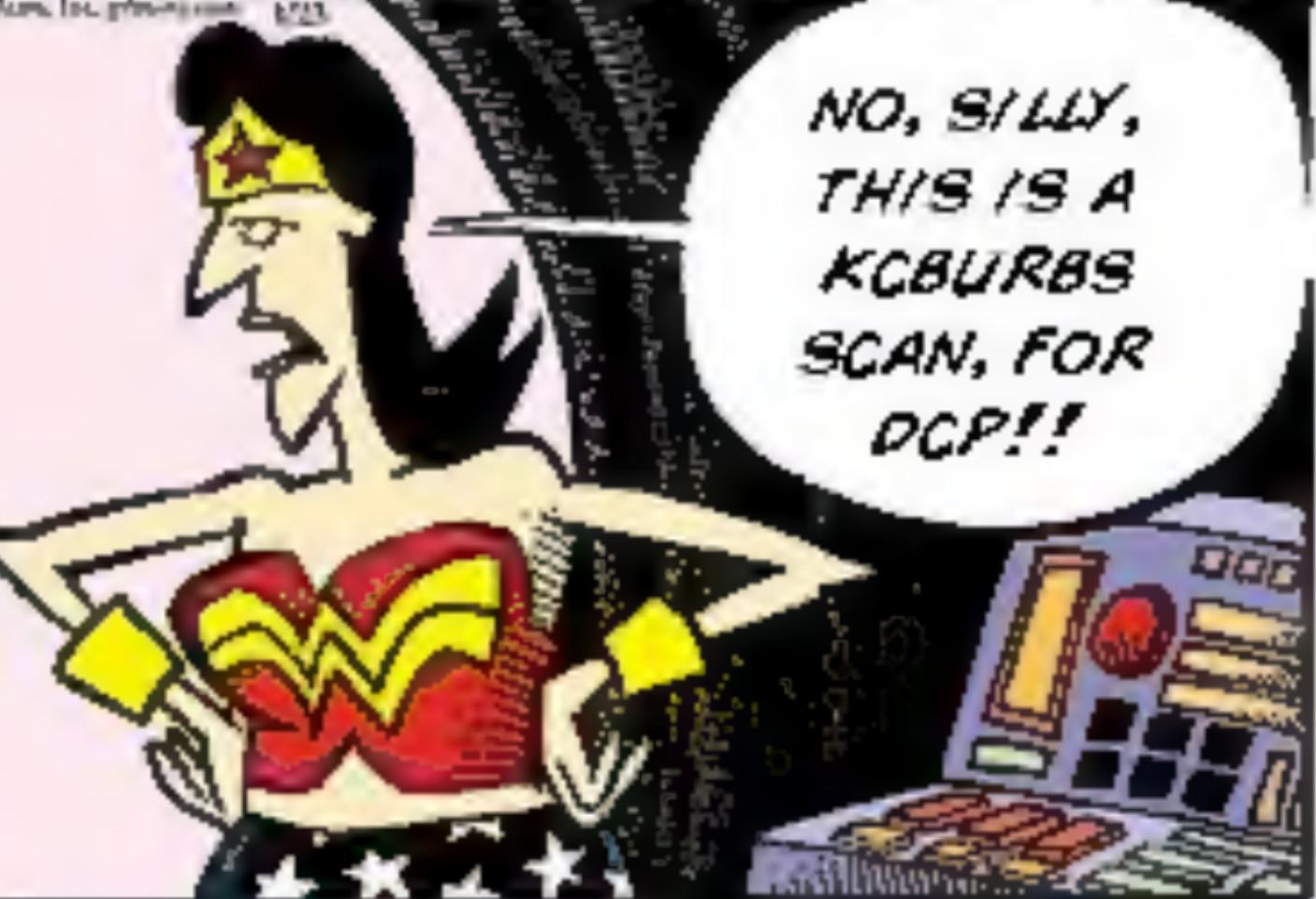


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